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FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE
1st meeting
held on
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at 3.45 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Temporary Chairman: Mr. GANEV (Bulgaria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Rule 103 of the rules of procedure provides that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence.

The elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation, after all the officers of the Committee have been elected.

This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee.

Are there any nominations?

Mr. WLOSOWICZ (Poland): At the appropriate time, the Head of the delegation of the Republic of Poland to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session - the Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Krzysztof Skubiszewski - will convey to you, Sir, our congratulations on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly. At this point, however, I should like to take the opportunity to extend to you our good wishes on your election this afternoon.

(Mr. Wlosowicz, Poland)

At the same time, I should like to convey to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Samir S. Shihabi of Saudi Arabia, my sincere appreciation of his great efforts and his outstanding role in guiding the work of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

(Mr. Wlosowicz, Poland)

Since the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Robert Mroziewicz, the Chairman of the First Committee at the last session, is not here today, I should like on his behalf to convey to the First Committee his sincere appreciation of the cooperation and support he received as its Chairman during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

It is my honour to propose His Excellency Mr. Nabil Elaraby, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, for the chairmanship of the First Committee for the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Elaraby is a distinguished diplomat as well as a highly respected scholar. His outstanding experience in the field of international law and his diplomatic skills are widely known and appreciated. Prior to his appointment as Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations in New York he was Permanent Representative of his country to the United Nations in Geneva. He also served as Director of the Legal and Treaties Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador of Egypt to India and as Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, of Egypt to the United Nations in New York. He also headed the Egyptian delegation to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament. At the United Nations he has served as Chairman of various Committees and Working Groups.

Ambassador Elaraby is a distinguished scholar in the field of international law. He has lectured at a number of prominent institutions, including the Hague Academy of International Law, New York University, Duke University, and Yale University, Pennsylvania University, the University of Houston, the Egyptian Society of International Law, the American Society of International Law and the Greek Institute of International Law, of a number of

(Mr. Wlosowicz, Poland)

which Mr. Elaraby is a member. He has also published several articles on various aspects of international law, has contributed to many publications, inter alia, on the Middle East crisis, disarmament and arms control, as well as on peace-keeping.

It is my sincere conviction that, due to his vast experience and diplomatic skills, Ambassador Elaraby will be an excellent Chairman of the First Committee of the General Assembly at a time when the Assembly and the world at large are undergoing important transformations that directly affect international peace and security, problems which are under consideration in the First Committee.

I propose that Ambassador Elaraby be elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: His Excellency Mr. Nabil Elaraby of Egypt has been nominated by the representative of Poland.

Since only one candidate has been nominated, I propose that under rule 103 the Committee decide not to hold a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: I therefore declare His Excellency Mr. Nabil Elaraby of Egypt elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.